Oil India Ltd.: 9 onland rigs and 1 offshore rig.

(b) and (c) Oil and Natural Gas Commission plan to acquire 14 onland rigs (3 rigs already acquired) and Oil India Ltd. plan to acquire 2 onland and 1 desert rig during 1985-86.

Allotment of Gas Agencies

496. DR. MOHD. HASHIM KIDWAI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM be pleased to state:

(a) the number of gas agencies given during the years 1983 and 1984;

(b) the number of agencies allotted State-wise; and

(c) what is the procedure for giving these gas agencies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM (SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA): (a) and (b) The requisite information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

(c) Applications for allotment of LPG agencies at specific locations are invited by the Oil Companies through press advertisements. Selection from among eligible candidates is made by the appropriate Oil Selection Board and appointment of distributors is made by the Oil Company concerned on the basis of the recommendation of the Selection Board.

Switching over from Merchant Trader to SSI Unit

497. SHRI GULAM MOHI-UD-DIN SHAWL: Will the Minister of INDUSTY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state whether there is any restriction on any person to switchover from a Merchant-Trader to an SSI Unit under the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act of 1951 by starting actual manufacturing of goods and getting permanent registration with the State Directorate of Industries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARIF MOHD. KHAN): No, Sir.

Criteria for allotment of Public Call Offices

498. SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the criteria for allotment of Public Call Offices/Telephones in private residences/shops;

(b) whether requests have been received from residents living in Khichripur Colony, New Delhi for establishment of a PCO at House No. 21 of Vth Block;

(c) whether any decision has been taken on their request;

(d) if the answer to part (c) above be in the affirmative, how long it will take to instal the PCO; and

(e) if the answer to part (c) above be in the negative, the reasons therof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) Public telephones are not usually provided at residential premises. However, they can be provided at private shops which are easily accessible to public, depending upon the technical feasibility and suitability of the location.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The request could not be acceded to.

(d) Does not arise in views of reply.